(e) whether it is proposed to be connected with Bhubaneswar and Rourkela?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Expansion of Bagdogra Airport

2866. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government have any proposal for the improvement and expansion of Bagdogra Airport in Darjeeling;

(b) if so what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Airports Authority has a plan to extend and modify the existing terminal building in the 8th Five Year Plan subject to availability of land and resources.

(c) Does not arise.

Development of tourism in West Bengal

2867. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state.

(a) what was the total amount sanctioned by the Central Government for the development of tourism in West Bengal during the last five years; and

(b) what were the names and details of the schemes in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The total amount sanctioned during the last five years (1986-87 to 1990-91) was Rs. 633.18 lakhs.

(b) The details are as under:—

—Two Yatri Niwases

—Two Yatrikas

—Wayside facilities at three locations

—Tourist lodges/accommodation establishments at six places

—Three Launches/Cruise Vessels

The other facilities include the development of trekking, provision of water-sports equipment, tented accommodation and publicity support.

Officers Deputed by Air India to Study the Privatisation of British Airways

2868. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state.

(a) whether Air India has deputed some senior Officers to study the privatisation of the British Airways to London, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the total expenditure incurred in foreign exchange on their study;

(d) what are the salient features of the Report submitted by them; and

(e) what is his Ministry's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Supreme Court Directive in Air India Case

2869. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state.

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news item captioned "SC. directive in AI case—Promotions liable to review" appearing in the Indian Express, New Delhi of the 14th January, 1992;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry/Air India has studied the implications of the Supreme Court judgement referred to therein;

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether the Supreme Court's direction will apply to promotions in all Departments of the Air-India; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (e) Special leave to Petition has been filed against the order of the Delhi High Court and the same has been granted by the Supreme Court. The judgement of the Supreme Court is awaited.

Soft pedalling of errant officals in Air India

2870. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state.

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news item captioned "Soft pedalling of errant officals" appearing in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi of the 5th January, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether any rules had been framed as envisaged in the Service Rules for appointment to the post of Deputy Managing Director of Air India;

(e) if so, the details thereof and whether these had been or will be laid on the Table of the House; and

(f) what is the manner in which the selection and appointment to this post was presently made?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The inference contained in the news item are baseless.

(d) to (f) The post of Deputy Managing Director below the Board level is filled by selection from amongst the officers of the level of Director by the Board of Directors. The Board level appointments to the post of Dy. Managing Director are made by selection through Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) and approval by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. The present appointment, which is a Board level appointment, has been made through the PESB with the approval of ACC.

Construction of Helipad in Darjeeling.

2871. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Helipad was constructed at Mirik by the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council during the last visit of the President of India to Darjeeling; and

(b) if so, whether permission was given by the Government in this regard: if not, how this project was allowed and is being allowed for the construction of a permanent helipad there?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Construction of helipad can be done at the State Government's level to meet the immediate requirement of VIP movement. However, prior to undertaking actual commitment, the Ministry of Defence clears the construction of helipad from the safety angle.

Cases of pilferage at Safdarjung Airport

2872. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that on 14th, June, 1991 one man was caught at Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi carrying one part of an aeroplane costing about Rs. 1.25 lakhs;

(b) whether in another incident copper wire was removed on three occasions costing about $ 15,000;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what action has been taken against the persons found responsible?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) On 14th June, 1991, an ex-employee of Indian Airlines was found carrying two